

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 7 which indicate this figure as “PRIOR ART.” This sheet, replaces the original Fig. 7 drawing sheet.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

The objection to the drawings has been obviated by the submission of a new Figures 7 with the legend "PRIOR ART".

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 has been obviated by revising independent claims 1, 10 and 17. However, before the specific language of the Amendment will be discussed, a brief recap of the principal features and the advantages of the invention will be made so that the language used in the amendment will be more fully appreciated.

As is set forth on page 2 of the specification, the principal purpose of the invention is to provide a steering lock device which reduces the distance that the device projects out from a steering column in order to increase the degrees of freedom in the design of the outer shape of the column cover. To this end, the steering lock device of the invention includes a key cylinder which is accommodated within a lock body mounted to the steering column of a vehicle, a lock bar accommodated within the lock body which is moveable between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the lock bar is located to a side of the key cylinder and is offset parallel to the rotational axis of the key cylinder. The offset positioning of the lock bar is plainly evident in Figure 1, which demonstrates the relatively compact arrangement of the key cylinder 30 and lock bar 22. By contrast, Figure 7 illustrates a coaxial arrangement of a key cylinder 104 and lock bar 108. Such an arrangement is clearly substantially longer than the relatively compact arrangement illustrated in Figure 1, which in turn constrains design options.

Claim 1 has been revised to more clearly recite the compact arrangement of the lock bar of the lock device illustrated in Figure 1. Specifically, amended claim 1 recites a steering lock device that comprises a key cylinder which is accommodated within a lock body, a gear accommodated within the lock body which rotates integrally with the key cylinder and which is disposed at a steering shaft side of the cylinder, a lock bar accommodated within the lock body and moveable between a locking and an unlocking position, wherein the lock bar is

offset parallel to a central axis of the key cylinder and is disposed at a key cylinder side along the central axis of the key cylinder, and

“wherein most of a length of said lock bar overlaps said key cylinder and said gear when said lock bar is in said unlocking position.”

None of the references of record either discloses or suggests the steering lock device recited in amended claim 1. While the Canard ‘579 patent discloses a steering column anti-theft device having a rotor 16, a projecting part 20 forming a cam, and a locking bolt 24, it is clear that the locking bolt 24 cannot withdraw within the front part 15 of the casing 12 any further than the cylindrical peg 45 (see Fig. 2, and col. 3, lines 39-41). Hence, it is impossible for “most of the length” of the locking bolt 24 to overlap the combination of the rotor 16 and the cam projecting part 20 when the bolt 24 is withdrawn against the cylindrical peg 45. Moreover, because there is no teaching in the Canard ‘579 patent as to the problem that the instant invention solves (*i.e.*, compactly arranging a locking cylinder and lock bar to overlap in order to expand the number of design options for a locking device), there is no incentive, motivation or teaching for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Canard ‘579 patent in such a way as to render “obvious” the invention defined in amended claim 1. For all these reason, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Canard ‘579 patent.

As the Maiocco ‘262 patent recited by the Examiner only for its teaching of the conventional use of ignition switch mounted at the side of a housing opposite a lock bar, no detailed discussion of this reference is deemed necessary. Further, as this reference only shows the conventional coaxial arrangement between a rotatable 2, and a latch 3, amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over this reference, taken either singly, or in any tenable combination with the aforementioned Canard ‘579 patent.

Claim 2 has been canceled, since the limitation contained therein has been substantially incorporated to amended claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are each patentable at least by reason of their ultimately dependency upon amended claim 1.

Claim 9 is patentable not only by reason of its dependency upon claim 5, but for its recitation that the proximal end of the lock bar and the steering column side end of the key cylinder "overlap one another when the lock bar is said unlocking position when viewed in a direction orthogonal to the central axis of the key cylinder. As none of the references of record either discloses or suggests this limitation, claim 9 is clearly patentable.

Claim 10 has been amended to include substantially the same limitations as amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 10 is patentable for all the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

Claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are each ultimately dependent upon amended claim 10. Accordingly, these claims are likewise patentable at least by reason of such dependency.

Finally, independent claim 17 has likewise been amended to include the previously discussed limitations of amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 17 is likewise patentable over the Canard '579 and Maiocco '262 patents.

Claim 18 has been canceled, since the limitation contained therein has been substantially incorporated into claim 17.

Finally, claims 19 and 20 are each patentable at least by reason of their dependency upon amended claim 17.

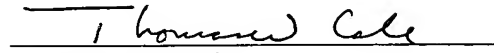
Now that all the claims are believed to be patentable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due is hereby earnestly solicited.

U.S. Serial No. 10/820,104
Amendment
Response to 9-22-05 OA

Atty. Docket No. 740165-375

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any overage or shortage of fees connected with filing of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Cole
Registration No. 28,290

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Customer No. 22204
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000
(202) 585-8080 fax

TWC/lms